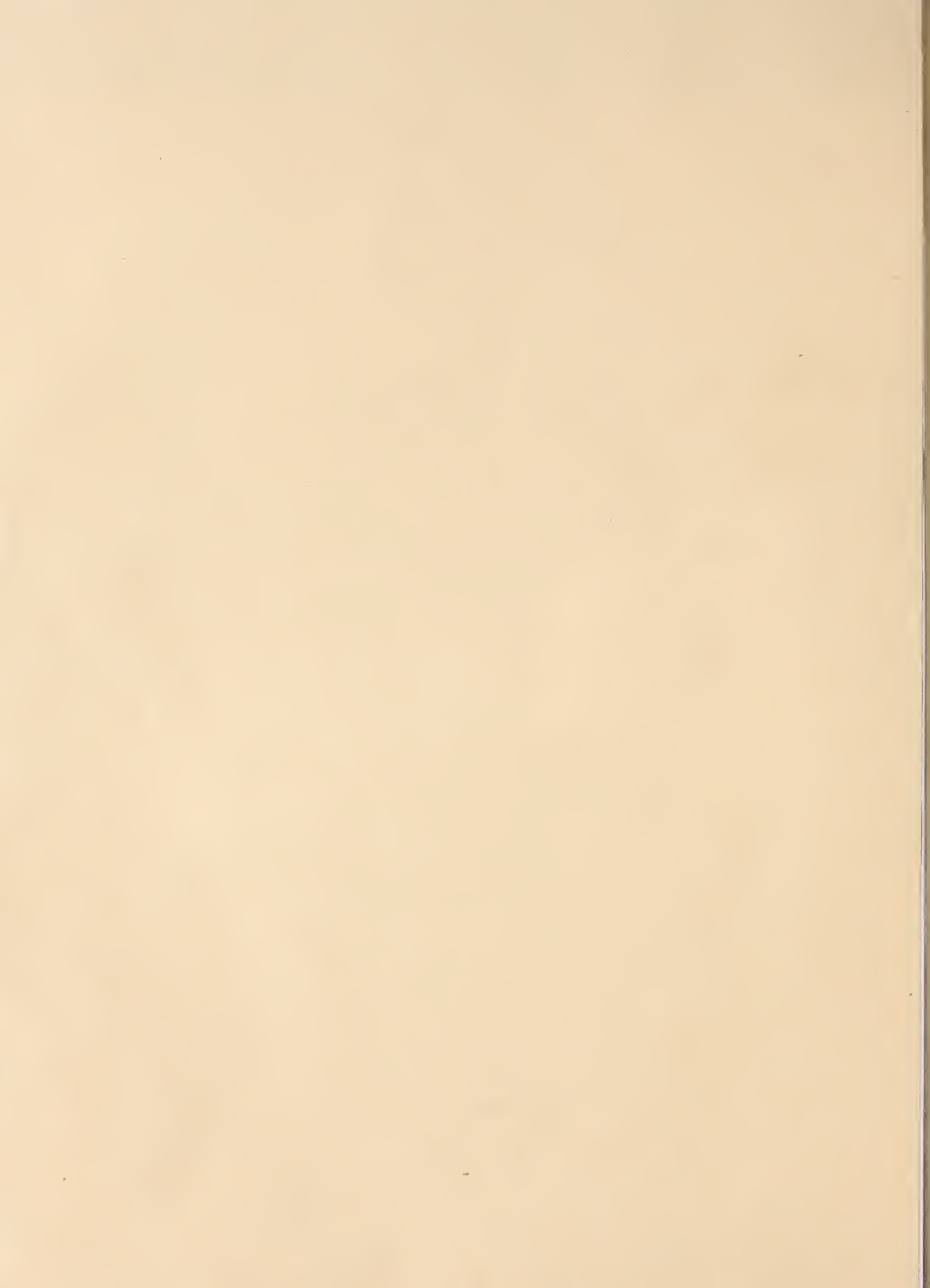


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# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXXII, No. 61.

Section 1

September 25, 1941.

## WICKARD CALLS FOR INCREASED FARM PRODUCTION

New York Times, Sept. 25: Secretary of Agriculture Wickard brought his appeal for full mobilization of America's agriculture to the farmers of the northeastern area yesterday, urging them to constitute their share "in the greatest production effort American agriculture has ever made." He addressed 400 representatives and officials of agricultural departments from 12 States of the New England and Middle Atlantic groups, and members of defense boards, farm cooperatives, and agricultural Extension Services, at the opening of a two-day conference in New York City. Wickard pointed out that the northeastern area will be asked to contribute to the supply of cheese, evaporated milk, and dry skim milk that will require the processing of between 4,500,000 and 5,000,000 pounds of milk.

## GULF COAST STORM DAMAGES FARM CROPS

AP report from Houston in New York Times, Sept. 25: The Gulf Coast tropical storm which killed three persons has caused millions of dollars damage to crops and property. Damage to the Texas rice crop alone was estimated at \$5,500,000 by H. L. Brinkley, manager of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association. The Government quickly announced plans for assisting farmers, and the Red Cross and other agencies also were giving aid. C. M. Evans, FSA regional director, said at Dallas that FSA loans were available to farmers unable to get adequate credit elsewhere.

## TO BASE CORN LOAN RATES ON LOCATION

The Department has announced that varying corn loan rates, determined on the basis of average corn prices as they vary from one area to another will be established in 1941. Under previous corn loan programs a "flat" or uniform corn loan rate has been used. Corn loan rates for 1941 for cooperators in the commercial corn producing area must be determined on the basis of 85 percent of the parity price of corn as of the beginning of the marketing year, October 1. It is anticipated that the lowest rates will be between 65 and 67 cents per bushel and the highest rates between 74 and 76 cents per bushel.



Cuba To Ask  
Reduced  
U. S. Tariffs

Havana wireless to New York Times (Sept. 23): Minister Jose Manuel Cortina has made public a list of products on which Cuba will ask the United States for a reduction in the customs tariff regulations for a supplemental commercial trade treaty between the two countries. The articles listed include minerals, sugar, molasses, tobacco, beef, veal, grapefruit, medicinal preparations and drugs, animal-origin chemical products, fruits, and lima beans.

Italy Restricts  
Restaurant Meals

Rome report in New York Times (Sept. 20): Beginning Oct. 1, Italian restaurants, hotels, and boarding houses may serve only standardized and severely restricted meals at fixed prices. Meals are limited to three dishes, and antipasto, desserts, and, for three days in the week, spaghetti and rice, are banned. Neither butter nor olive oil may be served separately, nor may the popular soups with eggs be supplied any more.

Waste Paper  
Prices Set

New York Times (Sept. 19): Maximum prices for all grades of waste paper, effective Oct. 1, in the area east of the Rocky Mountains, have been established by Leon Henderson, Price Administrator, who said that a "seriously disturbed price situation" had developed. Maximum prices per short ton, f.o.b. shipping point, range from \$13 for No. 1 mixed paper to \$60 for hard white envelope cuttings.

Expand Cover  
Crop Plan in  
South, Southeast

Farmers throughout the 16 southern and southeast States have been urged by the Department, as part of this fall's expanded cover crop program, to supplement plantings of Austrian winter peas and hairy vetch with other cover crops. The States are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. State AAA committees will approve additional varieties, where a supply is available. These varieties, selected from the following list, will be approved only for areas where satisfactory growth may be obtained: Kudzu crowns, rye, barley, winter oats, ryegrass, crimson clover, white clover, bur clover, and Hubam clover.

Trans-Atlantic  
Air Freight

New York Times (Sept. 17): Pan American clippers begin carrying freight across the Atlantic this month. Freight-carrying planes offer vital service in undeveloped country. Airline express rates are being rapidly lowered. There is no reason why planes cannot deliver freight across the ocean as easily as across land. With ships menaced by submarine attack, the plane may be the more reliable carrier.



Borax Prevents  
Rust of Flax

St. Paul Pioneer Press (Sept. 14): Successful treatment of flax plants with borax to prevent rust disease was announced recently by the University of Minnesota. H. G. Hegeness, of University Farm, said that plots of flax, planted in May and treated with 60 pounds of borax per acre, did not become infected with rust. Plots growing under similar conditions which were not treated were heavily rusted, as were plots on which calcium nitrate and zinc sulphate were used. Some of the flax leaves were burned by the borax, and Hegeness believes that 40 or 50 pounds instead of 60 may give the same protection and eliminate danger of burning.

By-Products  
From Tobacco

Courier-Journal (Sept. 10): Low-grade tobacco may be highly valued in the future for making soap, varnish stain, fiber board, fertilizer, and Vitamin B if experimental work of the Kentucky College of Agriculture becomes commercially acceptable. Two types of varnish have been processed from the resinous material in tobacco, and soap similar to tar soap has been made from the fat in tobacco plants. Through a process of oxidation, a vitamin in the B class has been made from nicotinic acid. Cellulose left from the stalks, leaves, and stems can be used as a basis for fiber board. The fertilizer value of tobacco comes from potassium nitrate, tobacco ash, and potassium sulphate compounds in the plant.

German Economic  
Gains in Ukraine  
Minimized

Washington Post (Sept. 23): The Commerce Department sharply minimizes possible German economic gains from conquest of the Ukraine or even of all European Russia. A department forecast declared that even with military domination the Germans would probably not be able to obtain foodstuffs or oil in large quantities in the near future and that it might take a "year or two" to restore industrial plants, mines, oil wells, and farms to important productivity. The analysis, it was learned from department spokesmen, was based on economic and political information from commercial attaches and State Department officers stationed in Russia. Farmers of the Ukraine, said the statement, are so strongly opposed to any sort of foreign control that military occupation of their lands would likely yield no more economic advantages than it did in 1914, when Germans occupied the area.

"Automobile  
from Soil"

Farm Journal (Oct.): Ramie, wheat, hemp, sisal, cotton linters, and woodpulp are among the ingredients of an experimental "automobile from the soil" exhibited recently by Ford. Lighter by 800 pounds than a comparable present car, the body is of molded plastic and framed on tubular steel.



Drug Plants  
for Britain  
in Wartime

London correspondence in A.M.A. Journal (Sept. 13): The minister of health appointed a committee to review present and future requirements of vegetable drugs. This Vegetable Drugs Committee has presented an interim report which differentiates two groups of drugs -- a long term and a short term group. It is held unlikely that any long term policy will materially affect the supply of drugs during the present emergency. The position is quite different for the short term. The committee considers that in the United Kingdom attention should be concentrated on the production of agar, dill, belladonna, Irish moss, colchicum, digitalis, ergot, male fern, liquorice root, hyoscyamus, peppermint, psyllium, sphagnum moss, stramonium, dandelion root, and valerian.

FS Develops  
Plastic Wood

Wood Products (Sept.): F. J. Champion, Forest Products Laboratory, describes the Forest Service method of plasticising wood by soaking in a saturated solution of urea followed by a drying process. The wood is thermo-plastic, that is, plastic when hot. This is undesirable for certain uses, but a modification of the treatment promises to make the wood, once softened and shaped, non-plastic on reheating. Details of the modified treatment will be available later. Possible uses of the new plasticised wood are for bentwood furniture, wood costume jewelry and novelties, building boards, table tops, flooring, and doors. The first studies were made with blackjack overcup and southern red and white oaks, but further tests with such woods as Sitka spruce and bigberry juniper show that the treatment works with softwoods as well as hardwoods. The treatment may open up new markets for low-quality timber.

Farm Canvass  
to Urge Food  
for Defense

AP report in Davenport Democrat, Sept. 19: A door-to-door canvass of every farm in the United States, asking producers to gear their 1942 crops to the defense program, will be completed by Dec. 1. Wayne H. Darrow, information chief of the AAA, told 400 midwest agricultural agents at a Chicago meeting that the campaign to increase the nation's food output would be carried into the farm home by a questionnaire, to be filled out by 7,000,000 farm families. County USDA defense boards then will try to adjust the farmers' production plans to meet defense needs. The questionnaire is similar to the previous AAA plan sheet on wheat and corn acreage but this time covers the acreage of every crop, the breeding of all livestock, and the production of milk.

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Vol. LXXXII, No. 62.

Section 1

September 26, 1941.

WICKARD SEES  
SMALL RISE IN  
FOOD PRICES

An AP dispatch in the Baltimore Sun, Sept. 25 says: Secretary Wickard, in an interview in New York Thursday, said: "While prices have risen in recent months, I don't see any reason why they should go very much higher, and I don't think they should." He said the increased production program should stabilize domestic demands, as well as provide supplies for Britain and create "stock piles" for distribution in Europe after the war. The Secretary said that he had long held that "the best way to shorten the war and get the kind of peace we want" was to build stores to fortify America's hand at the next peace conference.

CHEESE PRICE-  
FIXING LAID TO  
NEW YORK FIRMS

The New York Times, Sept. 26, says: Two price-fixing conspiracies, alleged to affect 25,000,000 pounds of cheese produced in New York State annually, were charged Thursday to ninety-two defendants. The allegations referred to arbitrary methods in determining the wholesale price of the products of 150 New York cheese producers, operating in the northern and western parts of the State. While the price has fluctuated slightly between 11 and 16 cents a pound for the last two or three years, it has risen steadily since January of this year, when it was 14½ cents a pound, to the present figure of about 23 cents a pound.

PLASTICS IN  
DEFENSE

AP report in Washington Post, Sept. 25: Use of plastics in defense work and in new kinds of consumer goods will boost 1941 production 200 percent as compared with 1940, Charles A. Breskin, publisher of a plastics trade journal, predicted yesterday in opening a plastics exhibit in New York City. Plastic aircraft sections, from gun turrets to instrument panels, were exhibited. One instrument panel of fluorescent plastic, illuminated by infra-red and visible only to the pilot, was shown.

LeCROON APPOINTED  
ASSISTANT SMA  
ADMINISTRATOR

Appointment of James D. LeCron as Assistant Administrator has been announced by Roy F. Hendrickson, Administrator of SMA. Mr. LeCron will succeed Philip F. Maguire, who has resigned to accept the position of Executive Officer, OPM Purchase Division. Charles F. Kunkel, who has been Assistant Regional Director of SMA for Western States, will succeed Mr. LeCron as Chief of the SMA Distribution Division.



Fabric Roofing  
Use Increases

News Bulletin of Farm Chemurgic Council,  
Sept. 10: Plant expansions made necessary by the defense program and the consequent rehabilitation of factories have substantially increased demand for cotton fabric roofing, according to a survey by the Cotton Textile Institute and the National Cotton Council. Although the demand has been caused in part by a shortage of metals, service given by this type of roofing over the last two decades is also responsible, it was reported. Tests by applicators have shown that the use of cotton fabric in conjunction with asphalt has extended the life of factory roofs as much as fifteen to twenty years, the institute stated.

Ill. Regulates  
Locker Plants

Locker Operator, Sept.: Illinois has passed locker plant regulatory legislation, effective Oct. 1, providing, among other features, for semi-annual health examination for employees of locker plants, for the use of electrically operated recording thermometers for locker rooms, for partitions between cooling and aging rooms, and for partitioning off of the processing rooms from which the public shall be excluded.

USDA Medical  
Research

T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, in Medical Record (Sept. 17) contributes the first part of an article on "notable medical research" done in the Department of Agriculture. Of the work done by Theobald Smith in practically eradicating cattle-tick fever, Harding says: Here is an example of a research project undertaken by the Federal Government at insistent public demand. Originally it related only to animals. Its field was agricultural. But the ultimate consequences of any major scientific discovery can never be confined narrowly. They spread in all directions. It is for this reason that research pays an unearned increment on the original investment really far larger than the steel corporation ever paid on funds actually invested.

Ind. Fruit  
Seed Laws

Indiana Farmers Guide, Sept. 15: A new Indiana law provides that apples, peaches, or strawberries offered for sale in the State must be marked with a sign giving the variety and grade, and, for apples and peaches, the minimum size. Another law, effective Jan. 1, 1942, will prohibit sale of seeds (for seeding purposes) containing certain noxious weed seeds.

Fire-Resistant  
Insulating Board

Farm Journal (Oct.): Fire-resistant insulating board is now available for use in farm buildings. Lath made of the same material, put on studs and covered with poultry netting, makes a practical base for sanded gypsum plaster.



Heat Lessens  
Potato Rot

AP report in New York Herald Tribune, Sept. 18: The Armour Research Foundation at the Illinois Institute of Technology has announced a drying process to prevent bacterial soft rot in potatoes. Investigation showed that the outside skin, through heat treatment, resisted soft-rot bacteria. Dr. Richard Belkengren, chemist of the foundation, and others, developed the process after Florida growers who dried potatoes on a conveyor belt running through a hot-air blast stumbled on its value. An experimental drier was developed at the foundation.

Price Control  
in Free Countries

Walter Lippmann, on Price Control in a Free Country (Washington Post, Sept. 23): It is one thing to fix the price of manufactured goods and of raw materials which are produced by corporations and it is another to fix the wages of employees and the prices paid to farmers... Necessary as it is to keep wage rates and farm prices in balance with the rest of the economy, the means available to accomplish this result must, because of the elementary and irreducible human element involved, be different.... Obviously the Government cannot dream of conscripting the whole wage-earning and farming population of the United States and then ordering everyone to work at a fixed wage and a fixed price. That has been possible in Germany, at least for the wage earners and to a somewhat lesser degree for the farmers. But it has not been possible in Britain and it is certainly not possible here.

Western Wastes  
For Alcohol  
Production

Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering (Sept.) contains an article, Western Wastes as Materials for Alcohol Production, by W. C. McIndoe, of the Bonneville Power Administration. Says an editors' note: Present capacity for ethyl alcohol production on the Pacific Coast is not sufficient to continue present uses and also to supply requirements for a projected military explosives plant in the Northwest. The article surveys the wastes and culls available in or near the region of the proposed plant, from which alcohol could be made. Sulphite waste liquors appear to offer the best possibilities, although wood wastes might be used, while smaller quantities could be made from beet sugar molasses, fruit canning wastes, cull potatoes, and by synthesis from ethylene or acetylene.

Farm Bloc

October Harper's contains an article, The Farm Bloc and the War, by Wesley McCune, assistant editor in the Washington Bureau of Newsweek.



Orchid for  
N. Y. Garden

Parks & Recreation (Sept.): Nearly 10,000 orchid plants have been presented to the New York Botanical Garden, William J. Robbins, director, has announced. The majority of the plants are varieties of hybrid Cattleyas, popularly known as florist's orchids. The garden already had a collection of some 3,000 orchid plants of 700 species and varieties. The collection is increasing in scientific and horticultural value, as it is likely that some species will soon be unobtainable from the countries where they grow.

Chinese Drug  
Plant Named

Current Science (India, June): Momordica Grosvenori is the name given by Dr. Walter T. Swingle (BPI, retired) to a new drug plant brought out of a remote part of China three years ago by the National Geographic Society. A description of the new plant was published in the April Journal of the Arnold Arboretum. The fruit of the plant, called Lohan by the Chinese, has long been used in dried form in China as a remedy for colds, sore throats, and minor intestinal troubles. The plant was identified by Dr. Swingle as a new species of Momordica and named for Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the society.

Rape Seed  
For Canada

Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Sept. 17: As the supply of European rape seed was reduced as a result of the war, the Canadian seed trade obtained sample supplies from Argentina. Tests by the Plant Products Division of the Department of Agriculture indicate that the rape seed from the Argentine, though of biennial character, acts as an annual when grown in Canada and is therefore unsuited to Canadian conditions. European rape seed of the Dwarf Essex type produces biennial crops which provide satisfactory forage.

Movable Car,  
Portable Room  
For Food Lockers

Locker Operator, Sept.: A frozen food locker "car" has been developed for a chain of locker plants, the first on a national basis. Built of light transparent material, the car rests on a track in the normal temperature of the patron's lobby, outside the locker room. He steps inside the car, which has no floor, and pushes it towards the locker room. The door of the room opens automatically to allow the car to pass and closes afterwards. With the car in front of his locker, he withdraws his food through a side opening and avoids the sudden change from 70° F. or more outside temperature to the 0° F. of the locker room.

A prefabricated portable locker room that can be installed on a ground or floor area of 9' by 24', with space for 100 lockers, is now being manufactured. The entire building weighs about 6,000 pounds.

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Section 1

September 29, 1941.

## USDA PROGRAM FOR EXPORTING COTTON TO CANADA

The Department Saturday announced a program under which Federal payments will be made to exporters to assist the exportation to Canada of cotton grown in the United States. Payments will be made at rates in effect at the time a sale is made, for cotton actually exported. The rates will be announced from time to time and will remain in effect for periods specified in the announcements. The announcements may limit the total number of bales which can be sold by any one exporter during a specified period. The cotton must be exported to Canada not later than July 31, 1942. Under the initial announcement the rate of payment will be 2.50 cents per pound of cotton, net weight basis, effective on sales made after 12:01 a.m., E.S.T., September 29, 1941, and before 3:00 p.m., E.S.T., October 1, 1941, when a new rate will be announced.

## PRIORITIES REVISION PROPOSED

Washington report to New York Times (Sept. 27): A projected major revision of the priorities system, under which defense industries will get specific allocations of raw materials instead of preference ratings, was outlined to the House Banking Committee on Sept. 26 by Donald M. Nelson. Under the existing priorities system, firms receive certain ratings such as 1-A, in the order of their importance to the defense program and the civilian population. Mr. Nelson told reporters he was not quite sure how the plan could be carried out, but said he intended to use the agricultural implements industry as a "guinea pig" on which to test his idea.

## BURLAP BAGS WITHDRAWN

New York Journal of Commerce, Sept. 29: Leading bag manufacturers withdrew burlap bags from sale at the end of last week. Calcutta burlap replacement costs, which have risen above the domestic maximum selling levels permitted by the OPA, have forced the move, according to one of the largest bag houses in the country.

## BRITISH COTTON WORKERS' WAGES

Manchester cable in New York Journal of Commerce, Sept. 29: For the first time in the history of the cotton trade, the principle of a minimum wage has been accepted. For male employees the basic minimum for ring jobbers will be equivalent, with extras, to 64s weekly. Other male ring room operators will have a basic weekly minimum wage of 56s 5p.



Pick-up Baler  
Aids Hay Making

Washington Farmer (Sept. 11): An interesting development in the handling of forage crops centers about a relatively new farm implement, the pick-up baler. In using this implement, the hay is cut and windrowed, usually with a side-delivery rake. When the hay has cured sufficiently, the baler is brought into the field and drawn along the length of each windrow. The baler picks up the cured hay from the ground, elevates it and packs it into the baler at the rear.

Cotton Goods  
Supply Ample

Boston report in Christian Science Monitor (Sept. 20): No shortage of cotton goods is in sight and in general the public is going to get what it wants with a minimum amount of substitution of one kind of cotton for another, Russell T. Fisher, president of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, has reported. There may, however, be great difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of long staple cotton of the kind used in normal times for the better type of shirtings and dress materials, Fisher said. Defense requirements are taking this grade of cotton for balloon cloth, airplane wing fabric, etc., while some is going into Army uniforms.

U. Tenn. Cotton  
Testing Service

Commercial Appeal (Sept. 21): A new cotton testing and measuring service which uses scientific instruments to determine the length, fineness, and strength of cotton fiber has been established by the University of Tennessee. James D. Hoskins, president of the University, said the service would be of great potential value to the cotton industry. The fibrograph and the arealometer, instruments developed by Kenneth L. Hertel, professor of physics at Knoxville, will be used in measuring the average fiber length and fineness respectively, and the Pressley instrument, developed by E. H. Pressley of the University of Arizona, will be used initially in testing fiber strength.

"Weeding Out"  
Misnamed  
Fruit Trees

J. K. Shaw, Massachusetts College of Agriculture, in American Agriculturist (Sept. 13): For the past 21 years men from the Massachusetts State College have been examining fruit trees in nurseries for trueness to name. This work for the 21st year has just been completed. Eighteen nurseries, scattered from New England to Michigan and Virginia, have been examined and all misnamed trees removed or plainly marked. Most of these 18 nurseries have been examined annually for from 6 to 19 years and one for the entire 21 years. It is significant to note the decrease of misnamed trees in these nurseries. In early years hundreds and even thousands of trees were eliminated. Now only a few are cut out.



Canadian Textile  
Export Licensing

Canadian Textile Journal (Sept. 12): A recent Order-in-Council prohibits the export of silk manufactures, semi-manufactures, rayon yarns, and single and plied cotton yarns finer than 60's, except under special license. Market reports in recent issues have pointed out that supplies of rayon yarns and fine cotton yarns are quite inadequate for domestic trade needs. With exports subject to special license, stocks of silk hosiery in mill hands will be reserved for home consumption, thus tending to expand the available supply until larger quantities of substitute yarns are available. The point has been reached where the textile industry in Canada will be unable to export either yarns or fabrics except war materials urgently needed by Britain and the Empire.

Rural Fire  
Districts

Farm Journal (Oct.): The rural fire district makes farm fire protection possible in many rural counties at a cost to each farm of about \$5 a year. An example is the rural fire district organized by farmers around Junction City, Oregon, working through their Grange. It is the first strictly rural fire district in Oregon. They bought a new fire truck equipped with booster tank for immediate use, and powerful pumps for drawing up water from fire wells, swamps, lakes, rivers, etc. They arranged to have the truck manned by Junction City firemen, and housed rent-free by the city fire department. In return, the city may use the truck for local emergencies, provided it may be called from action to answer rural alarms. This (and the payment of one-half the firemen's personal insurance) is provided for in a contract between the city and the rural fire district. The truck and equipment cost \$6,000. A plan was worked out whereby a two-mill tax each year is the only expense to 1,200 farm subscribers.

N. D. Station  
Develops  
Wheat Drier

Bismark Tribune, Sept. 19: Faced with the problem of lowering the moisture content of their 1941 grain sufficiently for safe storage, farmers can make use of a forced ventilating system of a type which dried 1,000 bushels of wheat from 15.1 percent to 13.45 percent moisture in 24 hours of intermittent drying, said T. E. Long, agricultural engineer of the North Dakota Experiment Station. As developed at the station, this forced ventilating system requires a perforated metal floor, an air drum in the center of the grain bin, and a centrifugal fan. Best results at the station were obtained by running the fan for an hour or two during the driest part of each day, usually during the early afternoon.



Southern  
Economic  
Problems

Boyce F. Martin, Emory University, in The Cellulose South, in Harvard Business Review (Autumn): The proponents of the philosophy of agrarianism (as a solution to "the No. 1 economic problem of the Nation") believe that the rural life, self-sufficiency farms, and low cash income is the best solution for this region, but human wants cannot be suppressed in any such fashion. Many parts of the South have been following the tenets of agrarianism, but have been spending their cash income for automobiles, gasoline, and the movies rather than for some of the things which are considered to be more essential to existence. A good case could be made, however, for a more widespread return to farming as a way of life. There is a real opportunity for an increase in the production of specialty crops for southern and eastern markets. An increase in the variety of the substantial amount of vegetables raised would improve the diet and provide food for many cotton farms. The establishment of more farmers' cooperatives likewise would assist in solving the business problems of securing some cash income for the individual farmer.

Allied Council  
Proposes Food  
Program

AP report from London in Washington Post, Sept. 25: Britain's allies agreed at a formal council Sept. 24 to help construct the framework of a great reservoir of food and other supplies which Europe may use "after the Nazi yoke is lifted." The council, guided by British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and assured in a message from U.S. Ambassador Winant that America believes the plan has "great prospective usefulness," adopted the scheme without formal dissent. The food pool plan was a frank bid for the support of the Allied war cause by all the peoples of Europe. The council adopted a resolution calling upon each of the Allied governments to estimate the kinds and amounts of foodstuffs, raw materials, and other articles which they will need in the first few weeks after the war and to indicate the priority in which they want them supplied. Britain will create a bureau to coordinate these estimates and present them to an Allied committee under Sir Frederick Leith-Ross of Britain. Plans for post-war employment of shipping resources will be worked out shortly.

Time To Pay  
Farm Debts

Editorial in Farmer-Stockman (Sept. 15): Not more than twice in a lifetime does a man find himself with good crops and good prices at the same time. This is one of those years for most farmers. This makes it a debt-paying year. If this period is used to make new and bigger debts instead of paying off old debts, it will be a period of calamity for the farmer. If it is used as a time to pay off debts, the farmer who does so can largely offset the costs of the war which all of us will have to pay.

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Vol. LXXXII, No. 64.

Section 1

September 30, 1941.

## ECCLES TESTIFIES ON PRICE-FIXING LEGISLATION

Dispatch by H. N. Dorris in New York Times, Sept. 30: A ceiling on wages and farm prices, more taxes, and an over-all agency with full authority to fix general prices were advocated yesterday by Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, as measures needed to halt "runaway inflation." Mr. Eccles testified before the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is considering the emergency price-fixing bill advocated by the Administration. "Whether or not you include within the terms of this bill a declaration of policy or discretion to deal with labor and farm prices," Marriner said, "the fact is that you cannot leave wages and salaries, which are the main factors in prices, to rise indiscriminately and be realistic about preventing inflation. You cannot, in my judgment, realistically put a high-level floor under farm prices and no ceiling."

## USDA COMMITTEE TO COMBAT FARM LAND SPECULATION

A permanent committee to study ways of checking speculation in farm lands, should it start, and to exchange ideas regarding the farm mortgage business is to be formed as a result of the conference of farm mortgage lenders and farm leaders held in Washington, September 26. Measures to prevent a speculative boom in farm lands were suggested to the group, which included lenders representing about 75 percent of the total farm mortgage debt of the country, by FCA Governor A. G. Black. In attendance at the conference were representatives of farm organizations, insurance companies, American Bankers Association, mortgage and investment bankers, and Government agencies. Each one of these groups will choose representatives to form the permanent committee.

## ITALY TO RATION CLOTHES, TEXTILE GOODS

Rome report in New York Times, Sept. 30: The Italian Government yesterday blocked for 10 days, beginning today, all textile goods and wearing apparel in Italy. The measure is preliminary to rationing, an official communique said. It affects wholesalers as well as retailers, for during that period no one residing in Italy will be able to buy even a collar or a pair of socks.



War Threatens  
Food Supply  
of Russia

The Nazi invasion of the Ukraine and the Crimea, the two important food surplus producing regions in southern Russia, is a serious threat to the Russian food supply, especially should the war continue into 1942-43, says a report in Sept. 29 Foreign Crops and Markets. The Ukraine, a large part of which has been occupied by Nazi forces, accounts for about three-fourths of the sugar and for about one-fourth of the wheat production of the Soviet Union. It also produces considerable barley and other farm products. The adjacent Crimea, in addition to producing wheat and barley surpluses, is one of the leading fruit and tobacco regions of the Soviet Union. During the first World War these southern surplus producing regions remained virtually intact in Russian hands. At present, however, much of the Ukraine is already out of the picture as far as any further contribution to the Russian food supply is concerned. Favorable factors in the immediate Russian food situation are the good crops reported in the unoccupied regions of eastern and central Russia, and the possibility that much of the grain crop in the more recently invaded area of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper was saved by the Russians.

FPA Report  
on Trade With  
South America

Washington report in New York Times, Sept. 29: The Foreign Policy Association has declared in a report that the removal of United States import duties on major South American commodities "would do more than speeches, loans, and cultural cooperation to strengthen ties between this country and Latin America." The report was prepared by Constant Southworth. The survey pointed out that United States industries most likely to suffer by this free trade would be flaxseed, long-staple cotton, zinc, and lead, but said that "while domestic producers of certain raw materials and foodstuffs would be injured, the great mass of consumers would benefit from the availability of products at lower prices."

Urges Cotton  
For Food  
Containers

New Orleans report in N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Sept. 26: George P. Thompson, president of the Wholesale Grocers Association of New Orleans, has petitioned Vice President Wallace for assistance in the campaign of the local food group for a wider use of cotton bags for shipment of food and other products. A number of food products manufacturers during the past few years have adopted cotton bagging for shipping their products.



New DevelopmentsTake "Stoop" Out  
of Beet Thinning

Western Farm Life (September 15): The man with the short-handled sugar beet-thinning hoe will be displaced before long by standing-up thinners with long-handled hoes, believes

E. M. Mervine, USDA engineer at Colorado State College. Mervine, whose experiments led to development of the single seedball planter now being produced commercially, is carrying on further tests this year of thinning beets planted with the new equipment. Experimental planting has been done on nine farms. On three farms the thinning was done entirely by machine, on three others with a combination of the machine and a man with a long-handled hoe, and on the last three with the long-handled hoe alone. The machine alone has not done a satisfactory job, but the other two methods have produced about as satisfactory thinning as has stoop labor in conventional plantings in the same fields. The machine and long-hoe combination cut man-hour time approximately in half.

Long-Time TrendsIn Forage  
Production

W. G. McGinnies, Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, in Western Livestock Journal (Sept. 15): Many Arizona stockmen have been bemoaning the fact that they didn't have

enough livestock to completely utilize the exceptionally heavy crop of annuals produced during the past winter and spring and feel that feed has been wasted. However, the plant material left behind as litter and humus may pay big dividends in terms of future forage production. Grazing studies have shown that as much benefit can be derived from the practice of good range management on annual ranges as on the best grass ranges. The condition in which the range is left this year will have an important bearing on the forage crop next year, and this is where the unused winter annuals enter the picture for the dried remains of these plants prepare the way for greater future crops. In the arid Southwest the amount of rainfall sets the limits of forage production, but the condition of the soil determines how closely the actual production of feed will approach these limits. Because of the variation in forage production from year to year, particularly on desert ranges, we are apt to lose sight of the long-time trends which may be hidden by the usual ups and downs in wet and dry years.

Mosaic-Resistant  
Sweet Pepper

Farm Journal (Oct.): Pepper mosaic has no terrors for a new disease-resistant strain of sweet pepper called the Rutgers World Beater,

developed by plant breeders at New Jersey Agricultural College. Not only is it resistant to the disease which causes heavy crop losses; it has, at the same time, a thick meaty wall and high eating quality. New Jersey farmers grow one-third of Uncle Sam's pepper crop. Seed will probably be available for planting next spring.



Grass Seeder  
on Cultipacker

Farm Journal (Oct.): Grass seeder attachment for the cultipacker (now on the market) makes it possible to cut down the seed required as much as one-fourth, improve the stand and reduce the work of preparing a seedbed. The attachment is a seedbox with wheel and chains for driving the gears. Grass seeds drop down spouts into the front roller grooves, and are covered by rear rollers.

Trends in Farm  
Machinery

Implement and Tractor (Sept. 13): Followers of that school of thought which attributes the farmers' economic ailments to too much machinery and tractors will find little confirmation of their theories in the returns from the U. S. Census of 1940. Complete preliminary returns for the 48 states indicate that the farmers' equipment was valued at \$3,059,266,327, which was nearly one-fourth billion dollars less than the \$3,301,654,481 valuation shown in the previous decennial census. Many of the states were able to reduce their machinery investments appreciably. Most of the increases have been shown in some of the eastern and north-central states and in the South where mechanization had made little headway prior to 1930. On the other hand, an analysis will show that the farmers are now operating with a smaller investment in equipment; that their annual expenses for equipment are less; that they have greatly reduced their expenses for hired labor, and that they have been able to produce more livestock with less cash outlay for feed.

Brookings  
Report On  
Wages, Prices

New York Times, Sept. 29: The 21 percent rise in wholesale prices which has occurred in two years is attributable chiefly to increases in farm products and to higher hourly wage rates, the Brookings Institution has reported. As a result, it said, the Government's pending price control bill could exert no effective control over the price system as a whole and must be supplemented by stabilization of farm prices and wages in general. Either the city worker must bear a higher cost of living or the farmer must give up the "parity price" system. Recent advances in the prices of farm products are traceable primarily to Government policies, and their full effect has not been made manifest to the consumer yet, according to the report, prepared by Drs. Harold G. Moulton and Meyer Jacobstein. The effects will be felt cumulatively as the months pass, and insistent demands for higher wages and salaries may be expected in every field of industry this autumn, it was predicted. The most important single step which might be taken to arrest the general rise of prices, it was held, would be to reduce somewhat the prices of important agricultural products.

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1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the existence of solutions of the system of equations

which are satisfied by the functions  $u(x, y, z)$  and  $v(x, y, z)$  in the domain  $G$  of the space  $E_3$  bounded by the surface  $S$ . The functions  $u$  and  $v$  are assumed to be continuous in  $G$  and to satisfy the boundary conditions

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